

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Sprunk, et al.) Confirmation No.: 7975
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U.S. Serial No.: 10/049,812) Customer No.: 000043471
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Filed: December 27, 2001) Art Unit: 2136
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) Examiner: Hoffman, Brandon S.
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Title: MULTIPLE LEVEL PUBLIC KEY HEIRARCHY FOR PERFORMANCE AND
HIGH SECURITY

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on January 12, 2007, please enter the following remarks.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a/e)

Claims 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a/e) as being anticipated by Van Oorschot et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,850,443, issued December 15, 1998). Applicants disagree.

Van Oorschot discloses transporting, in different degrees of security strength, a symmetric key encrypted using an asymmetric encryption technique, and along with this transporting ciphertext derived from plaintext encrypted under this symmetric key. The encryptor encrypts the plaintext using a symmetric whose strength is commensurate with